

## **SEWER COMMISSION MINUTES**

**August 17, 2011**

**7:00 PM**

**Mr. Connolly - The regular meeting of the Town of North Smithfield Sewer Commission was called to order on Wednesday, August 17, 2011 at 7:14 P.M. at Kendall Dean School.**

**Roll Call - Mrs. Paul - In attendance was: Mr. Nordstrom, Mr. Connolly, and Mr. McGee. Mr. Carpenter, Superintendent and Mr. Wilcox were both present. Mr. DeCelles and Mrs. Sheridan were not present.**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION by Mr. Nordstrom, seconded by Mr. McGee and voted unanimously on a 3-0 aye vote to table the July 20, 2011 minutes.**

### **REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT- Mr. Carpenter**

**Mr. Carpenter stated that on June 15, 16 and 17 that he tied into the water works and cleaned all the wet wells and Inland Waters helped. Also, on August 1 at the town council meeting he recommended that the Silver Pines pump station be accepted by the town. A deed was presented in 2008 and it has been accepted. The money that has been spent for it will come out of last year's operating budget.**

**Mr. Connolly confirmed with Mr. Carpenter that it has been accepted**

by the town.

Mr. Carpenter replied yes it has been accepted by the town.

#### **REPORT FROM SEWER/WATER COORDINATOR - Mr. Wilcox**

Mr. Wilcox indicated that there were two pump issues that were under warranty.

Mr. McGee asked if they knew who those sewer people were that were never tied into some of these other sewer projects.

Mr. Wilcox stated yes and that they are working on that day by day. Both he and Mr. Carpenter are looking at it together.

#### **VIOLATION NOTICES FOR PHASES 1A & 1B – Mr. Arthur E. Guilbert**

Mr. Wilcox indicated that there are 9 properties in phase 1A and 1B who have sewer violation notices.

Mr. McGee feels he has an issue with the drain layers list that was sent out to residents and that on the list, it does not state anything about a master plumber. He stated that a master plumber is an original drain layer and feels it should be listed on that list that is sent out to residents and he has said something and nothing has been done and he wants them to add that to the list.

Mr. Wilcox stated that when they call him, he goes over that list with

the resident and informs them that they can also go with a master plumber and they must show them their license.

#### **LUCILLE NEVEU – Hardship Request**

Mrs. Neveu of 3 Park Drive informed the commission that their anniversary 47 years ago on August 17 they purchased their house at 3 Park Drive. Her husband is deceased and was informed that their house is part of the Union Village area and they were taken out of that village sewer project. Back in August of 2002 at a sewer commission meeting Mr. Geremia on August 13, 2002 and Mr. Narodowy was the Chairman of the commission and he wanted to use the funds that were still in the sewer fund. Mr. Geremia's reply was "We can't do anything until they are in the sewer plan they don't exist." Before that time they had done all of the sewerage of Union Village they had funds for. They were taken out and at the time they did not know they were removed. Mention was made that there was ledge, as it did turned out and there was a firm from Providence who went around and had told her that he had dug in the area and he dug down 10 feet and there was no ledge and when they installed the sewer pipe they did not encounter that. Later she found out that they were put into the Waterford district and Waterford is two miles from where she lives. She stated that when this phase began, she wasn't receiving any correspondence, she contacted Mr. Geremia and as it turned out she wasn't on the list. Mr. Geremia called Mr. Wilcox because she wasn't receiving the notices and couldn't find on the listing and found that she had been listed on Woonsocket Hill Road and she wasn't

getting the notices. She stated that she has an excellent septic system and Mr. Keene informed her that she has a Cadillac of systems and it is two big concrete tanks and realizing what she has is far superior of what there was, she did file an appeal in August and it was on the assessment. She feels she shouldn't be paying any more than what those individuals are paying in the Union Village district. Although they could not

Page 2

find her for the correspondence, she did get the bills for the assessment and the user fee and she has paid since she has received it and has paid up to date. She does have a proposal and had Mr. Allard come to the house, he provided an estimate. She showed pictures of her house and neighbor's house of what would be done to the commission members. When Mr. Allard came to her house, he had another person with him and they measured an area of what they can do. Another option was to have to tear out her patio and she didn't feel comfortable going with Mr. Allard. She also stated that when it rains, her street is terrible. She feels that she shouldn't pay \$18,000.00 and has a much better system. She did receive a letter stating that they are not taking any more appeals and that she would have to go to court. In October she was going to go along with it. In October when she was ready to do business with them, an excellent firm she noted, the gentleman who was going to do the work for her for some reason stated that they were too busy to talk with her that on October 19, 2010 she didn't know what to do anymore. She went to

their office and for some reason they didn't have a certain piece of equipment and she was told to go with Allard. She had a list of those drain layers from a neighbor's but didn't have the letter that went with it that was attached. She stated she has a clean record with the town.

Mr. Connolly asked what relief is she seeking from the sewer commission.

Mrs. Neveu stated that she wanted to keep her septic system and without paying the fee of \$18,000.00. And that they are still in the Waterford district which doesn't make sense. She stated that she will put the house up for sale and have the system put in and feels that it is very unfair. She stated that you buy a house in Union Village and as Mr. Geremia had stated that they didn't exist and later they put them in Waterford so they can do sewers and they call it Union Village sewer district and she feels that it doesn't seem right.

Mr. Connolly suggested that it would be helpful to put a package together for the sewer commission and asked if she could reduce what she said and put it in writing for them so they have something to refer to and presenting the facts so each member will have a copy and so they have time to study it and then she could be placed on a future agenda when that packet is put together.

Mrs. Neveu stated she would be happy to make copies for the commission.

**Mr. Connolly stated that they wouldn't be able to take any action tonight until they have a packet put together for them.**

**Mrs. Neveu stated that she understood.**

**Mr. Wilcox asked that he receive the package from Mrs. Neveu and he will forward it to the commission members. And he asked to place the violation on hold.**

**Mr. Connolly agreed to place her violation on hold.**

**Mr. Nordstrom agreed that until Mr. Wilcox sits down with Mrs. Neveu and understands what the issues are and once he receives the packet, he can do a little bit of research.**

## **CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**MOTION by Mr. Nordstrom, seconded by Mr. McGee and voted unanimously on a 3-0 aye vote to receive and place the following items on file: A.) North Smithfield Resident Grinder Pump Issues: Mrs. Mary Fagan of 18 Oldfield Drive, Mr. Richard Laverdiere of 54 Fountain Street and Mr. Tom Cabral of 108 Mendon Road.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**MOTION by Mr. Nordstrom, seconded by Mr. McGee and voted unanimously on an 3-0 aye vote to discuss the joint meeting with the**

**town council.**

**Mr. Connolly informed the commission that there was suppose to be a joint meeting scheduled with the town council for August 1st that there was question that the sewer commission should have posted the agenda also, that since the agenda wasn't posted by the sewer commission to comply with the open meetings law, Mr. Yazbak and himself decided to tentatively reschedule to the second town meeting in September to be rescheduled to September 19th.**

### **Page 3**

**Mr. Nordstrom suggested moving up the regular scheduled sewer commission meeting from September 21st to September 7th to list and discuss those items to be talked about at the joint town council meeting on Monday, September 19th so they are well prepared for that joint meeting and set the agenda.**

**Mr. Connolly agreed to move up the meeting and will work with Pat Paul to schedule the meeting and making sure that Kendall Dean is available for September 7th.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**There was no new business.**

## **OPEN FORUM PURSUANT TO RIGL SECTION 42-46-6 (d)**

**Mr. Richard Laverdiere of 54 Fountain Street wants to appeal a decision by the sewer department for declining the pump grinder repair bill.**

**Mr. Connolly explained to Mr. Laverdiere this is an open forum and it can be addressed but that the commission cannot entertain an appeal at tonight's meeting and it has to be posted. He would have to contact the Secretary to request in writing to be placed on the agenda.**

**Mr. Wilcox researched it and addressed the issue.**

**Mr. Connolly isn't sure if they should hear an appeal on an issue like that.**

**Mr. Laverdiere stated that his pump grinder failed on June 6, 2011 and it was in service for 25 months and it is shy of the two year warranty. It was repaired and serviced. He asked for a report from F.R. Mahoney to see what they found and they found powdered soap on the pump. The invoice was for \$1,024.00 and he complained to Mr. Wilcox and Mr. Carpenter and they have since talked to F.R. Mahoney and issued a check for the materials only for \$396.31. The balance is \$627.69 and that is what he is appealing. The letter states from F.R. Mahoney that even though that they state it was powdered soap it**



could have been foreign material that is the reason why the warranty is declined. The fact that they stated it was powdered soap and now they are saying it is foreign material so they are not going to honor the warranty.

Mr. Connolly requested to contact the secretary and she will place him on the agenda. He stated he needed to check to see if the sewer commission is the appropriate body to talk to. If they are, he will be placed on next meeting's agenda and leave the information with the secretary and she will contact him and also leave a copy with Mr. Wilcox.

## **ADJOURN**

**MOTION** by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mr. Nordstrom and voted unanimously on a 3-0 aye vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 pm. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia A. Paul

Commission Secretary